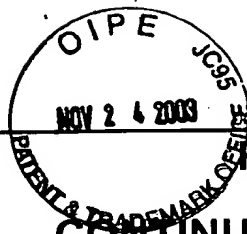


RCE/1600



PTO/SB/30 (08-00)  
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</b>  Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).	<b>Application Number</b>	09/900,319
	<b>Filing Date</b>	07/06/2001
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Priscilla M. Tramontana
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	1614
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	Cybillie Delacrox- Muirheid
	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	PPC-800

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
  - i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on  
(any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
  - ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
  - iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☒ Enclosed
  - i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
  - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - iv. ☐ Other

**2. Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. ☐ Other

**3. Fees** - The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 10-0750.
  - i. ☒ RCE fee is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
  - ii. ☐ Extension of Time (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
  - iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

<b>Name (print/type)</b>	Timothy E. Tracy	<b>Registration No.</b>	39,401
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	11/20/2003

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: November 11, 2003

<b>Name (print/type)</b>	Timothy E. Tracy	<b>Date</b>	November 20, 2003
<b>Signature</b>			

11/25/2003 SSANDARA 00000028 100750 09900319

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Serial No. 09/900,319

Docket No. PPC 800

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Tramontana  
Serial No. : 09/900,319  
Filed : 07/06/2001  
Title : Disposable Absorbent Article Containing an Essential Oil  
  
Art Unit : 1614  
Examiner : Delacroix-Muirheid, Cybille

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
INCLUDING AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

This is a response to the August 21, 2003 Final Office Action, which set forth a shortened statutory period of three months from response. Accordingly, this response is timely filed upon mailing with an executed Certificate of Mailing on or before November 21, 2003. 37 CFR § 1.8.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- ☐ **Amendments to the Specification** begin on page of this paper.
- ☒ **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- ☐ **Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet(s).
- ☒ **Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.